**Working Conditions of Air India Air Hostesses**

2802. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any directive that there should be no discrimination between male and female in the matter of working conditions and age of retirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the directive was reviewed by the Government pertaining to the Air India Air Hostesses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). The directive issued by Ref. No. AV. 18022/23/88-ACIA dated 16th October, 1989 required that airhostesses in Air India and Indian Airlines would also be allowed to serve till the age of 58 years. There would be no ban on marriage by airhostesses. Further, they would continue to be subjected to medical examination once a year after the age of 35 years and strict weight restriction regime.

(c) and (d). The matter was reviewed and it was clarified the increase in the age of retirement to 58 years did not specify the job functions and airhostesses could be given suitable alternate jobs and that the male cabin crew as well as airhostesses turn out attractively and the management may prescribe suitable medical examination and weight regime for both types of cabin crew.

[*Translation*]

**Oil Exploration in Bihar**

2803. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the efforts made so far for oil exploration in Jayanagar, Raxaul and other places in Bihar touching Nepal border; and

(b) the steps being taken to give impetus to these efforts?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) So far, 5 exploratory wells have been drilled by ONGC in Bihar and all have proved dry.

(b) At present one well is under drilling in Bihar by ONGC. Two blocks in Northern Bihar have been proposed to be included in the Fourth Round of bidding for exploration.

**Extension of Ait-Konch Passenger Train to Etawah**

2804. SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend Ait-Konch passenger train upto Etawah in Jhansi division; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

**Passenger Amenities at Madan Mahal Station**

2805. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether basic amenities at Madan